

MINUTES

PTA Meeting

DRAFT

Wednesday, Jan 8, 2014

6:30-8:00pm

Highland Park School Media Center

S. O'Brien (PTA pres), T. Downham (PTA v.p.), L. Golas (PTA treas), B. Harris-Fogarty (PTA secr), D. Murphy (mmbrshp), S. Hosmer (teacher rep), D. Sheehan-Burns (principal), G. DeAngelis (Math Coach), J. Palmatier (1st grade teacher), J. Smyth (1st grade teacher), L. Giraldo, S. Jacobsen, K. Miner, J. Stokes, A. Volek, B. Witkowski

S. O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:30.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Palmatier and Ms. Smyth presented an overview of first grade math stations. Math is divided into 8 units. They start with an anchor chart, then appropriate math vocabulary (Math Talk). There are 3 rotations of 4 stations- Math Facts (online Xtra math), 'At your seat', 'Hand On', & Teacher's Choice. The students also have access to reading books that are tied to the unit. Ms. Smyth recently received a Donors Choose class contribution for digital recorders for use in the classroom. Ms. Palmatier received an iPad through Donors Choose last year and uses that with her students.

A conversation followed regarding informing parents if teachers are participating in Donors Choose. We also discussed whether iPads have been considered for classroom use (multiples). Diane shared that the director of IT has been hesitant to purchase large amounts of iPads for student use.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sara presented a winter calendar update for the group. We are working on setting up an Internet Safety information meeting for parents in the next few months. We will also invite Dr. Kisiel and Mr. Geary to an upcoming meeting as well.

Upcoming events include the Sock Hop (Jan 10), VIP day (Jan 22), bingo (Jan 31), Mom/Son game night (Feb 7), Health Fair (Feb 11), K-2 Variety show (April 4), movie nights (Sara needs a co-chair, please contact the board if you can help!), and Bottle & Can drive (TBA).

She reviewed some 'housekeeping' notes which include elections for board members will be this spring, budget committee members will be needed to put together next year's PTA budget, and continuing store rewards programs (Big Y, Target, Shop Rite, etc).

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tammy revisited several fundraisers that have taken place (Taste Book, Book Fair, Dine Out nights).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

B. Harris-Fogarty requested for a motion to approve November minutes.

Motion to approve-S. Hosmer 2nd S. Jacobsen all in favor-12 abstain-1 opposed-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

Laura reviewed the monthly budget. Dawn Murphy talked about the Holiday shop this year. Students really enjoyed shopping and the families responded well to the gift options. It went very well this year and the experience will inform next year.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms. Sheehan-Burns shared her January Principal's report. (Please see her report online).

OPEN FLOOR

S. Jacobsen talked about a few fundraisers (Sweet Frog, Labels for Education). She also asked if we could survey parents to try to elicit more participation in the PTA (to tailor it to their needs, etc). We have surveyed parents in the past. Diane suggested that we survey parents during the next parent conferences when she will also be administering the climate survey. J. Stokes also suggested a wine tasting off site to encourage more parents to get to know each other. She'll look into details as a friend in a different district did this.

Sue also asked if we might run an indoor or outdoor tag sale. This will be revisited as there was an interest but other members shared that logistics can be challenging.

She also suggested that we might support more regular community service. Sara shared a few of the community service events in which we already participate. Diane suggested that in May when planning next year's PTA schedule. Perhaps a theme per month (or grade level focus) might be able to be integrated.

K. Miner asked if there had been feedback regarding the frustration level for students as they take NWEA tests that are formatted to challenge students at their level. Diane and Grace responded that they haven't heard significant feedback (but also noted that teachers are reminding students that they are not 'supposed to know' all the answers).

Motion to adjourn meeting-

Motion to approve- T. Downham 2nd-L. Giraldo all in favor- 12 abstain- 0 opposed -0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22.